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A PHYSICIST EXAMINES THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION FILM

Luis W. Alvarez

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Luis W. Alvarez

Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

Introduction:

In the eleven years since the Warren Commission published its 26 volume report[1] on the assassination of President Kennedy, a controversy has continued over the validity of the Commission's findings. Dozens of books and countless articles have been written to show, for example, that Lee Harvey Oswald had nothing to do with the event, or that he was part of a conspiracy with the CIA or other parties in planning the assassination. Some of the books, such as Mark Lane's "Rush to Judgement,"[2] were best sellers. In December 1966 Esquire published an article[3] listing thirty-five different theories that had been advanced by as many authors, each suggesting a variation on the Warren Commission's official scenario of the assassination. And since then, many more theories have appeared.

In the light of such a long history of unsettled controversy, the reader might well wonder why yet another author would feel moved to write on the subject. The reasons are quite simple; in the first place, I continue to read, and to hear on radio and television that "The laws of physics require that the President must have been shot from the front, whereas the Warren Commission places his assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, behind him."

Such statements involve the backward snap of the President's head, immediately after the shot that killed him. I will show, both theoretically and experimentally, that such statements are simply incorrect; the laws of physics are more in accord with the conclusions of the Warren Commission than they are with the theories of the critics.

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LAWRENCE BERKELEY LABORATORY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720